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Combined Districts of

BATHAVON, KEYNSHAM,
FROME (Urban and Rural).

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the Year 1942.

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
9, ROYAL CRESCENT,
BATH.

*To the Chairmen and Members of the
Bathavon, Frome, and Keynsham
District Councils.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my fourth Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the combined districts of Bathavon, Frome (Urban and Rural) and Keynsham.

The year 1942 was a memorable one, particularly for the Bathavon area, and the strain thrown on all departments of the Rural District Council by the sudden complete destruction of the Council Offices was very considerable. The immediate response of the staff to these chaotic conditions and the speed with which alternative premises were secured, are worthy of praise. My thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the Bathavon R.D.C. and to the Council staff for the excellent help given during this difficult time.

Two of the most outstanding items contained in the Report are first, the low infantile mortality rate of 29·6, and secondly, the fact that there were no deaths in any part of the area from any of the commoner infectious diseases, including Diphtheria. The fact that no death occurred from Diphtheria is particularly gratifying, and appears to justify the almost excessive amount of time spent in trying to get all the children in the area immunized against the disease.

The co-ordination of health services in a wide combined district is not easy during war time as one's assistance is sought in so many different directions besides that of the general routine work of the department. It is all the more pleasing, therefore, to be able to report a very satisfactory position regarding the general health and sanitary condition of the area, and this after three years of war time conditions.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

R. H. G. HECTOR DENHAM.

August 1943.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

SCARLET FEVER

Forty-eight cases were notified as against 86 for the previous year. The disease continued to be of a very mild type and the mortality was nil.

WHOOPIING COUGH AND MEASLES

There was a marked reduction in the numbers of cases of Whooping Cough and Measles, both of which reached epidemic proportions the previous year. Sixty-four cases of Whooping Cough were notified and 21 cases of Measles as against 257 and 1,477 for 1941. No death occurred from either disease.

DIPHTHERIA

The incidence of Diphtheria continues to show some reduction, 22 cases being notified during the year as against 27 for 1941, and 61 for 1940. It is particularly gratifying to be able to report that no death occurred from this disease in any part of the Area.

While it is still early to state definitely how far this diminution in the number of cases of Diphtheria is due to immunization against the disease, the figures are sufficient to encourage one to proceed with the campaign with unabated vigour.

The number of school children immunized has now reached a more satisfactory level, as approximately 80% have been inoculated. I wish that parents in the rural areas could realize the amount of time and energy that is being expended in the endeavour to protect their children from a deadly disease. When one considers that they have everything to gain and nothing to lose by the procedure, it is a constant source of wonder that twenty parents out of every hundred still remain adamant and persistently refuse to avail themselves of a service which is entirely gratuitous and made as easy for them as it is possible to make it. Most of these parents have been personally interviewed and the only reason for their refusal, in the majority of cases, is sheer apathy.

In one part of the Area an excellent Film on the subject was arranged by the Ministry of Information. All the parents of children who were not immunized in the district were informed a number of times beforehand of the time and place when the Film would be shown and particularly asked to attend. The result was that less than six mothers thought it worth their while to see the Film, the rest of the audience being composed principally of W.V.S. and Civil Defence workers who could much less easily afford the time.

Notwithstanding all these difficulties, however, all measures will still be persistently carried out to persuade these parents that the endeavour to eradicate Diphtheria altogether is very worth while.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER

There was a considerable fall in the numbers of cases of Cerebro-spinal Fever, only 4 being notified against 19 for the previous year, and 20 for 1940. These, unfortunately, were of a much more severe type, and 2 deaths occurred, giving a case mortality of 50% as against nil for last year and 35% for 1940.

TUBERCULOSIS

The numbers of cases of Tuberculosis have remained comparatively stationary, 40 Pulmonary and 11 Non-pulmonary cases having been notified as against 40 Pulmonary and 16 Non-pulmonary for last year.

SCABIES

Scabies still continues to be fairly widespread throughout the Area, but the numbers of cases as judged by the incidence of the disease in school children and by the numbers dealt with at Sick Bays and treatment Centres, does not appear to show any increase over that for the previous year. All children up to the age of 14 requiring in-patient treatment have been admitted to the Sick Bay, Hanleaze, Keynsham, which was opened as an official Sick Bay under the Evacuation Scheme in August of this year.

The position as regards adults is not so satisfactory, as in-patient treatment in their case is always difficult to arrange. Out-patient treatment is available at the treatment Centres at Frome and Midsomer Norton and also at the Bristol Clinic by arrangement with the Bristol Corporation.

FOOD POISONING

Five cases of Food Poisoning were notified in the household of a family in the Area. Samples of food and vomited matter, etc., were submitted to the County Laboratory for investigation and the cause was found to be a bacterial toxin. It was impossible, however, to trace which article of food contained the offending organism as it was not found in any of the samples of food submitted for investigation. Four of the 5 cases were treated in hospital for a few days and all made a complete recovery.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS

The raids on Bath on the nights of the 25th and 26th April provided a very severe test of the efficiency of the A.R.P. organization, and the personnel most directly concerned performed very creditably.

The partial damage to the offices and subcontrol centre on the first night, followed by their complete destruction on the second night, was naturally a very crippling blow. It is greatly to the credit of Mr. Barrett, the Area Organizer, that the change-over to alternative premises at the Admiralty Buildings, Combe Down, was effected so smoothly and with such little detrimental effect on the efficiency of the working of the various services.

Seven of the local Dressing Stations in the Bathavon Area were called upon to deal with casualties, and all did excellent work. Any fears that one may have had concerning the ability of the personnel to deal with such a sudden emergency were very soon dispelled as in every case the casualties were treated in a calm, efficient manner.

I should also like to pay a tribute to the work of the members of the W.V.S. responsible for the care of the homeless in the Rest and Feeding Centres. Most of these Centres were required to accommodate numbers greatly in excess of the official maximum, but the manner in which these ladies got down to the task of coping with these large numbers, was beyond praise.

Continuous training of the different A.R.P. services has been carried out throughout the year and numerous local and area exercises held.

Dr. Peach Taylor, who was appointed Medical Staff Officer last year, has visited every Post and Point in the Area on numerous occasions and given individual lectures and also courses of lectures at a large number of them. Dr. Taylor and myself have never missed an opportunity of taking part in any exercise that was available outside the Area, and the experience gained has proved invaluable.

The First-Aid Post at Frome has been transferred from the Y.M.C.A. hut in the Mary Bailey Playing Field to part of the Old Isolation Hospital premises in Whitewell Road. This transfer was considered necessary owing to the unsatisfactory nature of the former building. In some ways the new quarters are a considerable improvement on the old, but the lack of space will present great difficulty in working should it be necessary at any time to deal with any appreciable number of casualties.

As stated in last year's Report, an upgraded Point has been sanctioned for the Whitchurch area and permission for its accommodation in the Council Junior School has been obtained from the County Education Committee. Mr. Barrett and myself have always regarded Whitchurch as perhaps the most vulnerable spot in the whole area and have stressed the importance of reaching as high a standard of efficiency there as it is possible to attain. Unfortunately, our efforts have met with only partial success as a number of the recommendations regarding both the equipping and staffing of the Point have not secured the official approval that was hoped for.

STATISTICAL TABLE

The following Table shows the comparative Birth Rates, Death Rates and Infantile Mortality Rates for the combined districts for the years 1939, 1940, 1941 and 1942, with the corresponding figures for England and Wales.

Owing to the variety and magnitude of local population movements and the uneven incidence of civilian war deaths, the Minister of Health has decided to suspend the use of areal comparability factors under present conditions. The Death Rates shown in the statistics for the year 1942 are therefore the recorded Death Rates for each area and not the corrected rates which have hitherto been calculated.

	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Infantile Mortality Rate.
Combined Districts, 1939 ...	13·8	11·1	45·2
England and Wales, 1939 ...	15·0	12·1	50·0
Combined Districts, 1940 ...	12·9	11·9	51·1
England and Wales, 1940 ...	14·6	14·3	55·0
Combined Districts, 1941 ...	13·2	11·8	45·2
England and Wales, 1941 ...	14·2	12·9	59·0
Combined Districts, 1942 ...	16·4	11·7	29·6
England and Wales, 1942 ...	15·8	11·6	49·0

The figures continue to bear favourable comparison with those of the country as a whole, particularly the Infantile Mortality Rate, which shows a reduction of 15·6 on that for the previous year.

Bathavon Rural District Council.

Chairman of the Council...	...	...	W. A. SALMON, Esq., J.P.
Chairman of the Sanitary Committee	...		P. M. WILLCOX, Esq.
Senior Sanitary Inspector	...	...	C. C. AXFORD, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.
Additional Sanitary Inspector	...	...	H. C. L. MORRIS, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.
Health Department Clerk	...	...	F. K. KELWAY.
Part-time Clerk	...	...	Miss TENNANT.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
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Health Department : Bath 5789.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

The number of live Births registered, adjusted for inward and outward transfers, total 368.

				<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	173	164	337
Illegitimate	...	...	...	17	14	31
				190	178	368

STILL BIRTHS

				<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	5	1	6
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
				5	1	6

Birth Rate, per 1,000 estimated resident population	
mid 1942	16·80
Still Births, rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	16·04
Death Rate, rate per 1,000 estimated average population	11·41

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	35·33
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	32·64
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	64·52
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
„ „ Other Puerperal Causes	Nil
„ „ Cancer (all ages)	30
„ „ Measles (all ages)	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough	Nil
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil

DEATHS

The number of deaths, adjusted for inward and outward transfers, total 250, 129 males and 121 females. The following Table indicates the cause of death :—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	—	1
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping-cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	6	4	10
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	3	3
Syphilitic Diseases	—	2	2
Influenza	1	2	3
Measles	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Acute Infantile Encephalitis	1	—	1
Cancer of Oesoph. Uterus	3	2	5
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	2	3
Cancer of Breast	—	6	6
Cancer of all other sites	11	5	16
Diabetes	1	1	2
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	15	25	40
Heart Disease	36	27	63
Other Diseases of Circulatory System ...	5	7	12
Bronchitis... ..	9	4	13
Pneumonia	3	5	8
Other Respiratory Diseases	3	1	4
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	—	—	—
Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	—	—	—
Appendicitis	1	1	2
Other Digestive Diseases	1	4	5
Nephritis... ..	3	5	8
Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis	—	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	—	—	—
Premature Birth... ..	2	1	3
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injury ...	7	3	10
Suicide	—	1	1
Road Traffic Accidents	2	—	2
Other Violent Causes	7	1	8
All Other Causes	10	9	19
	129	121	250

Deaths under 1 year of age

There were 13 deaths of Infants under 1 year of age, 10 males and 3 females, divided as follows :—

Under 1 week	... 10	1-4 weeks	... 2
1-6 months	... 1	6-12 months	... Nil

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Disease	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever ...	31	23	—
Diphtheria ...	19	15	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ...	—	—	—
Measles ...	6	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	31	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	6	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	4	2	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ...	2	2	1
Dysentery ...	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	11	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis...	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	5	2	—
	115	46	1

TUBERCULOSIS

Seventeen cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified and 4 cases of Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.

	<i>Total Cases notified</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Respiratory ...	17	10
Non-Respiratory ...	4	3

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The Bathavon and Keynsham Tuberculosis Care Committee continues to do very good work under the Chairmanship of Miss Date.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

WATER SUPPLIES

The District Council supplies the following villages :—

Bathampton

This supply has been inadequate in previous years, but by giving the high level springs careful attention a constant supply was maintained throughout the year. A chlorinating plant has been installed at the pump house.

Bathford

The augmented supply of 365,000 gallons a year obtained in 1941 enabled a constant supply to be maintained throughout the year. An additional pump has been fixed at the pump house.

Dunkerton, Hinton Charterhouse, Monkton Combe, Upper Swainswick, Tadwick, Wellow, Shoscombe and Swinford.

With the exception of Wellow, where for a short time the supply had to be turned off during the night, a constant supply was maintained throughout the year.

Marksbury

Is supplied by water purchased in bulk from the Clutton Rural District Council. A constant supply was obtained during the year.

Peasedown St. John, Camerton Village, Carlingcott, Meadgate and Tunley.

Until this year water supplied for this area has been purchased in bulk from the Norton-Radstock Urban District Council. This supply had proved to be insufficient during summer periods and the Council have now augmented the supply by using the surplus water from the spring supplying Shoscombe village. This involved the fixing of a new Diesel engine and a pump with a capacity of 1,000 gallons an hour at the Shoscombe pumping station and the laying of approximately three-quarters of a mile of 3 in. rising main connecting the pump house with the Peasedown (Huddox Hill) reservoir. The scheme also included the installation of a chlorinating plant.

The Bath Corporation supply the following parts of the district :—

Batheaston, Lower Swainswick, Weston, St. Catherine's, Wolley, and about 20 houses at Bathampton adjacent to the boundary.

The Combe Down Water Company supply the whole of Combe Down, Freshford, Southstoke, Midford, part of Hinton Charterhouse and Claverton (except for a few houses supplied by the Skrine Estate).

The West Gloucester Water Co. supply the whole of the parish of Whitchurch, part of Corston and a few houses at Queen Charlton. The water from these three undertakers is chlorinated. The supply in each area has been ample throughout the year.

The villages of Stanton Prior, Queen Charlton, Priston, Northstoke, Newton St. Loe, Kelston, Corston and Burnett are supplied by privately owned supplies.

Thirteen samples of water were submitted to the County Analyst for examination and were reported as satisfactory during the latter 9 months of the year. Records for the 3 months were destroyed by enemy action.

HOUSE REFUSE

Your Authority removes by contract the house refuse from the following parishes :—

A weekly collection from Batheaston, fortnightly collections from Bathampton, Monkton Combe (including Combe Down), Swainswick (Upper and Lower), Freshford, Wellow, Weston, Whitchurch and Peasedown. A monthly collection from Bathford, Southstoke, Queen Charlton, Marksbury, Compton Dando, Chewton Keynsham, and Stanton Prior. A collection every two months from Corston, a quarterly collection from Priston.

The refuse is disposed of by the contractors except from Monkton Combe, Southstoke and Weston. From these three parishes it is taken by the contractors to the Bath City Destructor Works.

At the time of writing arrangements are being made for the purchase of two covered refuse waggons in order that the Council may dispense with contractors and undertake a combined refuse and salvage collection throughout the district.

SEWERAGE

No extensions to sewers have been made during the year. Sewage from the parishes of Bathford, Bathampton, Batheaston, Claverton, Monkton Combe, Swainswick and Weston, are discharged into the Bath City sewers and from the parish of Whitchurch into the Bristol City sewers.

The Council have their own disposal plants for Wellow village and Midford. These plants are due for reconstruction.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES, ETC.

The 11 Slaughterhouses in the district are still not in use owing to the Government scheme of centralized slaughtering. There is one licensed knacker's yard in use in the district.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

Number of producers on the Register is 237. There are 39 farms producing Accredited Milk and 11 farms producing Tuberculin Tested milk.

Examination of milk samples is undertaken by the County Council and on their behalf samples of Accredited, Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurized, and samples for investigation of the presence of tubercle bacilli were regularly submitted to the County Analyst for examination. Periodical inspection of Dairies and Cowsheds is carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors.

One licence to Pasteurize milk, and one licence to bottle Tuberculin Tested milk was issued by the Council.

Meat and other Foods

Meat inspection has been confined to animals slaughtered privately by licence from the Ministry of Food and to complaints by retailers and shopkeepers. During the latter half of the year the following foods were condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

19 tins of Pork, Luncheon Meat, 26 tins of Milk, 11 tins of Fish,
29 tins of various foods and 1½ cwts. of Meat and Offal.

Bakehouses

There are no underground bakehouses in the district. The 10 bakehouses have been inspected and all were satisfactorily maintained.

GENERAL

Vermin.—Only three flea infested premises were found or reported. In each case disinfestation was carried out and no further trouble was experienced. No evidence of other vermin was discovered or reported.

Rats and Mice.—No very serious infestation of rats or mice was discovered. In such places where rats have been found or reported disinfestation was carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors or advice and free bait given to the occupiers of the premises.

Camping Sites.—Eight Licences authorizing land to be used as a site for movable dwellings, 13 Licences to erect or station and use individual movable dwellings were granted under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. One Licence was refused owing to unsatisfactory sanitary conditions and other reasons. The Licences are granted for a maximum period of six months, after which the application is again considered. The great majority of Licences granted are for trailer caravans.

Smoke Abatement.—We have had no trouble in any way with smoke arising from chimneys and it has therefore not been necessary for any action to be taken.

Food Decontamination.—The arrangements made for this emergency have been maintained and the personnel have attended practical exercises and lectures in connection with this service.

Infectious Disease.—Routine disinfections and enquiries have been carried out for the infectious cases reported by the medical Officer. In addition, visits have been made in connection with the disinfection and washing of bedding and the giving of advice to parents after cases of Scabies.

Housing.—Various defective houses have been dealt with chiefly by informal action with successful results. It has been impossible to keep up the pre-war standards of housing owing to labour and material difficulties.

At the time of writing a complete survey is being made of all defective houses which are being classified for action after the present emergency. A number of houses which had been condemned prior to the war are now being let on licence which is renewable after six-monthly periods. The majority of these are occupied by evacuees.

The Urban District Council of Keynsham.

Chairman of the Council... .. G. E. CHAPPELL, Esq., J.P.

Chairman of the Health Committee ... A. W. POWELL, Esq.

Sanitary Inspector H. W. ARGILE, M.I.M. & Cy.E.,
A.R.S.I.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector D. F. G. LOCKYEAR (Active
Service).

COUNCIL OFFICES,
KEYNSHAM.

Telephone : Keynsham 291/3

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Births

The number of live births registered, adjusted for inward and outward transfers total 119.

				<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	60	54	114
Illegitimate	...	...	...	4	1	5
				—	—	—
				64	55	119

Still Births

				<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	1	5	6
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
				—	—	—
				1	5	6

Birth Rate, per 1,000 estimated resident population mid 1942	...	...	...	...	...	15.66
Still Births, rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births						48.00
Death Rate, per 1,000 estimated average population						11.05

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	42.02
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			43.86
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			Nil

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	1
„ „ Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	13
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	Nil

DEATHS

The number of deaths, adjusted for inward and outward transfers total 84, 48 males and 36 females. The following Table indicates the cause of death.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Typhoid Fever	1	—	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping-cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	1	2	3
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	1	1	2
Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—
Influenza	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Acute Infantile Encephalitis	—	—	—
Cancer of Oesoph. Uterus	—	2	2
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	—	—
Cancer of Breast	—	3	3
Cancer of all Other Sites	1	7	8
Diabetes	1	1	2
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	3	4	7
Heart Disease	10	4	14
Other Diseases of Circulatory System ...	—	1	1
Bronchitis... ..	4	2	6
Pneumonia	2	1	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	—	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	2	1	3
Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	—	—	—
Appendicitis	—	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases	1	2	3
Nephritis	6	—	6
Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis	—	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	—	1	1
Premature Birth... ..	2	1	3
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injury ...	1	—	1
Suicide	1	—	1
Road Traffic Accident	1	—	1
Other Violent Causes	1	—	1
All Other Causes	8	3	11
	48	36	84

Deaths under 1 year of age

There were 5 deaths of Infants under 1 year of age, 3 males and 2 females, divided as follows :—

Under 1 week	...	3	1-4 weeks	...	1
1-6 months	...	1	6-12 months	...	Nil

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever ...	10	7	—
Diphtheria ...	1	1	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ...	1	1	1
Measles ...	8	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	21	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ...	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	3	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	3	1	—
	49	10	1

TUBERCULOSIS

Four cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified and 2 cases of Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.

	<i>Total Cases notified</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Respiratory ...	4	3
Non-Respiratory ...	2	2

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

KEYNSHAM INFANT WELFARE CENTRE

The attendance of evacuated mothers which had considerably diminished during the last 9 months of 1941 was nil during 1942. The 19 evacuee children retained on the Register at the end of the year all attended the War Time Nursery. Notwithstanding this fall in the attendance of the evacuee mothers, the totals on the Register at the end of the year, and the total attendances during the year again show an increase, this proving the continued popularity of the Centre. The figures for the year were as follows :—

				<i>Attendances</i>			<i>Total</i>
				<i>Keynsham</i>	<i>Saltford</i>	<i>Evacuee</i>	
January...	...	...	61	13	2	...	76
February	...	...	81	13	2	...	96
March	...	...	82	13	3	...	98
April	...	...	102	18	—	...	120
May	...	...	92	6	4	...	102
June	...	...	91	4	2	...	97
July	...	...	131	17	1	...	149
August	...	...	90	21	—	...	111
September	...	...	145	28	—	...	173
October	...	...	157	21	—	...	178
November	...	...	147	20	—	...	167
December	...	...	161	19	—	...	180
				1,340	193	14	1,547
Attendances for 1941...			778	93	62	...	933
No. of children on the Register at the beginning of the year	...		227	26	38	...	291
No. of children on the Register at the end of the year	...	...	275	43	19	...	337

KEYNSHAM WAR-TIME NURSERY

The number of children attending the Nursery increased considerably, especially the under 2's, and as the only Staff employed besides Matron and the Nursery teacher were very young and inexperienced probationers, it was decided to engage an Assistant Matron to take charge of the Crèche. This appointment was made in April, 1942. The number of under 2's rose to 14 during the summer months and there was a constant daily attendance.

The average daily attendance of 2-5's at this time was about 30, and by the end of the year increased to about 39. This number has remained fairly constant except during the weeks of an epidemic of Measles and Chicken-pox.

In August, 1942, it was decided to equip and extend the Nursery to make it suitable for 50 children, 26 3-5 years, 14 2-3 years, and 10 under 2 years. The whole of the ground floor was taken over and alterations commenced in October, 1942. These were as follows :—

1. An extension was built on to the schoolroom which was redecorated throughout.
2. A bathing sink was put into the Crèche ; this entailed the putting in of adequate drains. A hot and cold water supply has been run into this sink. This has made the work much easier as previously all clean and dirty water had to be carried a considerable distance during babies' bath time. All the babies have a daily bath.
3. Two smaller rooms were redecorated for use as playrooms for the 2-3 years old.
4. Two cloakrooms were made, one for the 3-5's and one for the 2-3's, each containing children's baths, miniature lavatory pans and wash-bowls. Tooth brushes and mugs, hair brushes and combs, towels and flannels, all within easy reach of the children have increased the educational value of the toilet period. The school children who are in need of it have a daily bath, others a weekly bath.
5. A small room, conveniently adjoining the school-room, is used as a Casualty room and also serves as an office for the Matron. A telephone has been installed.
6. A laundry room was made adjoining the cloakrooms and an electric boiler and wringer were installed. All school laundry is done on the premises.
7. A very pleasant Staff room and Isolation room were made out of the stable adjoining the garage, and also a large store room.
8. The Aga cooker was found to be inadequate and an electric cooker was installed.
9. The hot-water supply was insufficient and two 30 gallon tanks were put in and a large stove for heating the water. A large airing cupboard was built round the hot-water tanks and a hot-water coil was fixed into the airing cupboard already in the kitchen. In addition, two large pulleys were fixed in the kitchens to facilitate the drying of laundry in the bad weather.

10. The house was extremely cold in the winter and large stoves were installed in all the rooms and electric fires, where necessary. This has proved very satisfactory.
11. The Kitchen and Hall were redecorated, and as all the decorations were made in a cream and primrose shade, the whole appearance of the Nursery is one of continual sunshine. This is very pleasant and beneficial to both Staff and children.

STAFF

All the probationers are being transferred to other Nurseries for further training and nursery assistants are taking their places. These assistants are untrained, but are domesticated women with an interest in the welfare of children.

Owing to the increase of work and responsibility in the school-room, an assistant to the nursery teacher is to be appointed.

HEALTH

The general health and nutrition of the children have maintained a very satisfactory level throughout the year. Infectious disease was limited to a number of cases of Mumps in February and March, 1 case of Scarlet Fever in June, and a few cases of Impetigo and 2 cases of Whooping Cough in July.

Immunization against Diphtheria was stressed, and in only very few instances was opposition to this encountered.

KEYNSHAM SICK BAY

The Sick Bay at Hamleaze was opened in August, the first case being admitted on August 18th. Since that date a steady flow of children has been maintained for the treatment chiefly of Scabies and Impetigo. This Sick Bay is now the only one in the combined districts of Keynsham, Bathavon and Frome, and the accommodation has proved ample to deal with all requirements. The decision of the Ministry of Health to extend the facilities of the Sick Bay to local children as well as evacuated children greatly eased the situation as regards the effective carrying out of the provisions of the Scabies Order and very little opposition has been encountered from parents.

Benzyl Benzoate remains the most generally effective treatment of Scabies, but the sulphur preparations such as Kathiolan still have their place in the treatment of certain cases. Lethane 384 Special has been used with excellent effect in the treatment of Pediculosis.

Thirty-nine cases were admitted during the four and a half months. The following Table shows these in their various age-groups :—

<i>Age</i>	<i>Scabies and/or Impetigo</i>				<i>Other conditions</i>
Under 5	...	...	...	14	3
5-15	...	...	...	21	—
Over 15...	...	...	...	—	1

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

RAINFALL

STATION—WELLSWAY, KEYNSHAM.

Month.	Total Depth in Inches.	Greatest Fall in 24 hours.	Date.
January	3.39	.47	20th
February	.53	.25	1st
March	1.79	.39	18th
April	.98	.14	5th
May	4.79	.77	25th
June	.48	.24	12th
July	3.40	.99	7th
August	3.75	.82	29th
September	2.60	1.00	29th
October...	4.09	.75	5th
November	1.54	.50	5th
December	3.23	.80	5th
Total	30.57	—	—

SEWAGE AND REFUSE DISPOSAL

With the exception of a few outlying properties all houses are connected to public sewers, the majority of which convey the sewage to the Disposal Works at Unity Road.

These works are now dealing with a larger daily flow of sewage than that for which they were originally designed, but it is dealt with satisfactorily.

Difficulty is experienced in drying off the sludge on the limited area available, and a proposal to construct Digestion Tanks has been rejected owing to war conditions, but it is hoped to improve matters considerably by a temporary expedient.

The domestic and trade refuse is collected weekly from the whole of the area by the Council's workmen. It is taken to the Stidham Gravel Pit, sorted for material of value as salvage and the remainder disposed of by controlled tipping.

HOUSING

No new houses have been erected during the year. Regular inspection of houses under the Public Health and Housing Acts have not been possible under war conditions. A number of inspections have, however, been made, but it is becoming almost impossible to get repair work carried out on account of the acute labour position.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk

There are 24 Producers of Milk in the area, 10 of these are also retailers. A number of distributors produce or obtain their milk in rural areas.

There are two producers licensed by the Somerset County Council to produce tuberculin tested milk, and two produce accredited milk.

In addition, the District Council have issued the following licences to use special designations :—

- 1 Pasteurized Licence.
- 3 Supplementary Licences.
- 3 Dealers' Licences.

All premises used as dairies are periodically inspected by the Sanitary Inspector.

Examination of milk samples is undertaken by the County Analyst and 17 samples of milk of special designations and 6 for examination for tubercle bacilli have been collected by the Sanitary Inspector on behalf of the County Council.

Bakehouses

There are 6 bakehouses situated within the Urban District and all have been satisfactorily maintained.

Food Premises

There are 22 premises registered for the preparation of food. During visits to grocers', etc., shops, 381 tins of fruit, fish, preserves, etc., were condemned as unfit for food. In addition, a consignment of tinned milk arrived in damaged condition and on examination 1,900 tins were condemned as usable for animal but not human food, and 2,562 were condemned to be destroyed.

Meat, etc.

The 3 licensed slaughterhouses remain unused owing to the centralized slaughtering scheme of the Ministry of Food.

During visits to butchers' and other shops, 11 cwts. 1 qr. of meat (including tinned) were condemned as unfit for food.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

During the year under review, in addition to the new industries brought to the area as a result of the war, the old industries of manufacture of chocolate and cocoa, paper and envelopes, ochre, paint and chemicals continue to employ a fair proportion of the available population.

WATER

The Urban District is supplied by the West Gloucester Water Company and all except a number of outlying or scattered houses have a proper supply. Routine samples taken throughout the year have continued to give satisfactory results as regards both its bacteriological and chemical contents.

As stated in last year's Report, arrangements have been made with the West Gloucester Water Company for maintaining a constant supply of water to the district in case of dislocation of the normal supply by enemy action.

Frome Urban District Council.

Chairman of the Council... .. O. L. SEWARD, Esq.

Chairman of the General Purposes

Committee H. M. SCOTT, Esq.

Sanitary Inspector A. I. BELL, Cert. S.I.E.J.B.

NURSE WHITE

(Appointed September, 1939, under Government Evacuation Scheme.)

PUBLIC OFFICES,

FROME.

Telephone : Frome 2348.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Births

The number of live Births registered, adjusted for inward and outward transfers, total 198.

				<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	100	90	190
Illegitimate	...	...	...	8	—	8
				108	90	198

Still Births

				<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	4	4	8
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
				4	4	8

Birth Rate, per 1,000 estimated resident population						
mid 1942	...	...	...	...	...	15.74
Still Births, rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	...	...	...	...	38.83
Death Rate, rate per 1,000 estimated average population						11.21

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	30.30
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				31.58
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				Nil

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	27
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	Nil

DEATHS

The number of deaths, adjusted for inward and outward transfers total 141, 77 males and 64 females. The following Table indicates the cause of death :—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—
Cerebrospinal Fever	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping-cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	4	—	4
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—
Syphilitic Diseases	—	1	1
Influenza	—	1	1
Measles	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	1	1
Acute Infantile Encephalitis	—	—	—
Cancer of Oseoph. Uterus	2	3	5
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	3	3	6
Cancer of Breast	—	2	2
Cancer of all Other Sites	10	4	14
Diabetes	—	—	—
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	8	8	16
Heart Disease	13	19	32
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	6	1	7
Bronchitis	2	4	6
Pneumonia	4	—	4
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	—	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	—	—	—
Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	—	—	—
Appendicitis	—	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases	—	1	1
Nephritis	3	5	8
Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis	—	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	—	—	—
Premature Birth... ..	3	—	3
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injury	2	2	4
Suicide	1	—	1
Road Traffic Accident	—	—	—
Other Violent Causes	4	—	4
All Other Causes	11	9	20
	77	64	141

Deaths under 1 year of age

There were 6 deaths of Infants under 1 year of age, 5 males and 1 female, divided as follows :—

Under 1 week	...	6	1-4 weeks	...	Nil
1-6 months	...	Nil	6-12 months	...	Nil

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Death.
Scarlet Fever...	2	2	—
Diphtheria ...	1	1	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ...	—	—	—
Measles ...	5	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ...	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	8	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	2	2	1
Erysipelas ...	2	—	—
	20	5	1

TUBERCULOSIS

Thirteen cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified and 4 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

	<i>Total Cases notified</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Respiratory ...	13	4
Non-Respiratory ...	4	—

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

SICK BAY, WHITEWELL ROAD

These premises ceased to function as a Sick Bay in June and were retained for use as an out-patient centre for the treatment of Scabies, Impetigo, etc., on the mornings of Mondays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Only the former Diphtheria block is now used for the purpose, the rest of the building having been taken over by the County Council for use as a first-aid Post.

During the year 31 patients received in-patient treatment and 41 children received out-patient treatment ; these were all cases of Scabies and/or Impetigo.

During the whole period (September, 1939, to June, 1942) that in-patient treatment was provided, cases were drawn from the Urban District of Frome, Keynsham and Shepton Mallet, and the Rural District of Frome, Clutton, Bathavon, and Shepton Mallet. In all, 446 persons received treatment.

FROME INFANT WELFARE CENTRE

The weekly attendances at the Centre have maintained a satisfactory average throughout the year and the total figures show a slight increase on the previous year's satisfactory total. The increasing popularity of the Centre reflects the greatest credit on the work of the doctor and nurses and on the enthusiastic assistance given by the voluntary lady helpers.

The numbers on the Register at the end of the year and attendance during the year were as follows :—

Sessions held ... 50 Medical Consultation Sessions ... 11

<i>Age.</i>	<i>Frome Children.</i>		<i>Evacuee Children.</i>	
	<i>Cases.</i>	<i>Attendances.</i>	<i>Cases.</i>	<i>Attendances.</i>
Under 1 year ...	107	751	27	209
1-5 years ...	48	113	39	79
Totals ...	155	864	66	288
Totals in 1941 ...	139	732	69	290

No. of children on the Register	...	221
Total attendances		1152
Average attendance per Session	...	22

FROME WAR-TIME NURSERY

The situation and character of the premises at Rock Lane, Bath Street, in which this war-time Nursery is accommodated, have never been very conducive to easy working, and the space out of doors is somewhat inadequate. I think it would be difficult, however, to find a healthier collection of children anywhere than are to be found here.

Notwithstanding the somewhat sombre surroundings, a visit to the Nursery is always a bright, cheerful affair, and Miss Sheahan is to be congratulated on the arrangements she has made for making the best possible use of all existing facilities. The health of the children has remained excellent throughout the year and apart from a number of cases of Mumps during the month of May, there have been very few cases of infectious disease.

The Nursery was open for 256 days, the highest attendance at any one Session being 31. The average number of children attending was 25, and the total attendance throughout the year was 6,319.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

Milk

Routine inspections of all Dairies and Cowsheds in the district have been carried out during the year, and despite the recruitment of trained farm and dairy workers for National Service the general standards of milk production and control have been well maintained.

Four producers are licensed by the Somerset County Council to produce Tuberculin Tested Milk and one to produce Accredited Milk. In addition, the Frome Urban District Council have issued one licence to retail Pasteurized Milk.

Samples of Pasteurized Milk taken during the year were satisfactory.

Bakehouses

All Bakehouses were visited twice during the year and the requirements as to lime washing, cleanliness, etc., have been well carried out.

Food Premises

All food premises have been visited at least once during the year, and particular attention was directed to infestation by rats and mice.

Meat and Food Inspection

Slaughtering at the Government's Slaughterhouse in Merchants Barton continued throughout the year, and slaughtering of pigs at Messrs. J. Lewis' Slaughterhouse was carried out up to September.

The Government Slaughterhouse served the Urban Districts of Frome and Warminster, and the Rural Districts of Frome and Warminster and Westbury. The large population served by this Slaughterhouse and the consistent shortage of staff, due to slaughtermen being called for other work of National importance, resulted in the Slaughterhouse being consistently over-worked throughout the year, and it was only the sustained, continuous hard work of the whole staff connected with the slaughtering and distribution of meat that this vital food was made available to the public.

The arrangements for the handling and transport of meat, for the cleanliness of the vehicles and carriers' clothing, and for the general condition of the Slaughterhouse continued to give rise to anxiety, but the position has remained fairly satisfactory. It is satisfactory to report that all waste, offals, hides, etc., were removed with sufficient speed, and no complaints were received during the year from workers in adjoining factories.

The presence of rats was reported to the Ministry of Food and resulted, after some little delay, in work of rat prevention being carried out.

The number of carcasses examined during the year was as follows : 2,437 beasts, 1,319 calves, 6,241 sheep, 1,143 pigs.

As a result of these examinations the following carcasses and parts of carcasses and organs were found to be diseased and unfit for human consumption :—

Beasts

Carcases and Viscera (Tuberculosis)	...	...	58
Forequarters (Tuberculosis)	...	...	17
Hindquarters (Tuberculosis)	...	...	2
Heads (Tuberculosis)	...	...	202
Lungs (Tuberculosis)	...	...	368
Livers (Tuberculosis)	...	...	149
Mesenteries (Tuberculosis)	...	...	71
Carcases and Viscera (Johne's Disease)	...	...	7
Carcase and Viscera (Oedema)	...	...	1
Carcases and Viscera (extensive bruising)	...	...	2
Forequarters (bruising)	...	...	2
Hindquarters (bruising)	...	...	4
Heads (Actinomycosis)	...	...	6
Lungs (Melanosis)	...	...	1
Lungs (Pneumonia)	...	...	2
Hearts (Pericarditis)	...	...	2
Hearts (Fatty Degeneration)	...	...	2
Livers (Distomatosis)	...	...	276
Livers, parts of (Distomatosis)	...	...	211
Livers (Cavernous Angioma)	...	...	37
Livers (Fatty Infiltration)	...	...	7
Liver (Cysticercus Echinococcus)	...	...	1
Bruised Beef	...	...	462 lbs.

Sheep

Carcases (Jaundice)	...	...	2
Carcases (Oedema)	...	...	2
Carcase (Multiple Abscesses)	...	...	2
Lungs and Livers (<i>Strongylus rufescens</i>)	...	...	430

Pigs

Carcases (Tuberculosis)	...	...	...	...	5
Carcases (Multiple Abscesses)	...	...	...	...	2
Carcases (Erysipelas)	...	...	...	...	2
Heads (Tuberculosis)	...	...	...	...	37
Plucks (Tuberculosis)	...	...	...	...	23
Mesenteries (Tuberculosis)	...	...	...	...	16

Calves

Carcases (Immaturity)	...	...	...	...	2
Carcases (Congenital Tuberculosis)	...	...	...	...	3

In addition, a considerable amount of other food was surrendered as being unfit for human consumption. The very considerable increase in the consumption of tinned food of all kinds is indicated by the amount surrendered, but the figures do not necessarily indicate any lessening in the purity and wholesomeness of tinned food. Previously, quantities of tinned food "blown" and damaged were returned to wholesalers by the retailers without reference to local authorities, but with the advent of rationing and "point values" the inspection and certification of food by Sanitary Inspectors has considerably increased.

In many cases damaged and dented tins, although possibly harder to sell, were found to be quite fit. All food surrendered was used for animal feeding, the great majority being collected by the Surveyor and mixed with the pig-swill boiled at the sewage works and sold to farmers.

The following food was thus dealt with :—

261 tins of meat and meat products.

88 tins of fish and fish products.

385 tins of fruit and vegetables.

301 tins of milk.

12 lbs. of oranges.

8½ lbs. of bacon.

9 lbs. of cheese.

2 cases of fish cakes.

16½ lbs. of cod roes.

168 lbs. of whiting.

Common Lodging Houses

The two Common Lodging Houses in the town were regularly inspected and were well conducted.

Disinfection and Disinfestation

In addition to the routine disinfection of premises following cases of infectious disease, the arrangements for the disinfection and disinfestation of Army bedding, clothing, etc., were continued, and all mattresses and blankets issued under the Government Evacuation scheme were disinfected before being returned to store.

Four bug-infested houses were disinfected with satisfactory results.

Housing

It has not been possible under war conditions to maintain the normal standard of housing repairs. Various nuisances and sanitary defects have been dealt with by informal action and satisfactory results obtained. Statutory notices were served in respect of two houses with defective roofs and in respect of four houses which were in a filthy condition. It may be pointed out that all local builders have suffered considerable reduction in their staffs, and this, together with their work for various Services and Ministries in connection with billets, air-raid damage, etc., has militated against the old standard of housing maintenance.

Sewage and Refuse Disposal

The town sewers serve practically the whole of the district and, with the exception of a few houses on the outskirts, all houses are connected to the sewerage system which conveys sewerage to the Outfall Works at Spring Gardens.

Water

The supply continues to be satisfactory in quality and quantity. The samples of the public water supply taken during the year were satisfactory.

Frome Rural District Council.

Chairman of the Council... .. W. M. JONES, Esq.

Chairman of the General Purposes
Committee W. M. JONES, Esq.

Sanitary Inspector H. L. BURT, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.,
C. Meat & Foods I., C.S.I.E.B.
(Lond.).

Assistant Sanitary Inspector V. C. S. ROBEY, C.R.S.I.

PUBLIC OFFICES,
FROME.

Telephone : Frome 2625.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Births

The number of live births registered, adjusted for inward and outward transfers, total 187.

				<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	87	88	175
Illegitimate	...	...	...	7	5	12
				94	93	187

Still Births

				<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	3	1	4
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
				3	1	4

Birth Rate, per 1,000 estimated resident population mid 1942	...	...	...	...	...	17·36
Still Births, rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...					20·94
Death Rate, rate per 1,000 estimated average population						13·09

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	10·70
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				11·43
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				Nil

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	25
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	Nil

DEATHS

The number of deaths, adjusted for inward and outward transfers total 141, 73 males and 68 females. The following Table indicates the cause of death :—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	—	1
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping-cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	3	2	5
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	1	—	1
Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—
Influenza	1	2	3
Measles	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Acute Infantile Encephalitis	—	—	—
Cancer of Oesoph. Uterus	—	2	2
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	—	1
Cancer of Breast	—	2	2
Cancer of all Other Sites	13	7	20
Diabetes	—	—	—
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	9	5	14
Heart Disease	21	25	46
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	1	1	2
Bronchitis... ..	2	1	3
Pneumonia	4	—	4
Other Respiratory Diseases	—	1	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	—	—	—
Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	—	—	—
Appendicitis	—	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases	1	3	4
Nephritis	2	1	3
Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis	—	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	—	—	—
Premature Birth... ..	1	—	1
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injury	1	—	1
Suicide	1	—	1
Road Traffic Accidents	1	1	2
Other Violent Causes	—	—	—
All Other Causes	9	15	24
	73	68	141

Deaths under 1 year of age

There were 2 deaths of Infants under 1 year of age, both males, divided as follows :—

Under 1 week	...	2		1-4 weeks	...	Nil
1-6 months	...	Nil		6-12 months	...	Nil

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever... ..	5	3	—
Diphtheria	1	1	—
Enteric Fever (includ- ing Paratyphoid) ...	—	—	—
Measles	2	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	12	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	—	—
Ophthalmia Neona- torum	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Menin- gitis	2	2	1
Dysentery	—	—	—
Pneumonia	4	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—
	28	6	1

TUBERCULOSIS

Six cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified and 1 case of Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.

	<i>Total Cases notified</i>	<i>Total Deaths.</i>
Respiratory	6	5
Non-Respiratory	1	1

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or, under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

WATER SUPPLIES

District Council Water Supplies (Springs).

The following villages in the district are supplied from the Council's own Springs :—

Coleford, Buckland Dinham, Leigh-on-Mendip, Norton St. Philip, Rode, Beckington, Standerwick, Nunney and Wanstrow.

The following areas are supplied by the Council from bulk supplies of adjacent authorities :—

Rodden, Oldford, Spring Gardens, Marston Back Lane and The Mount. Extensions from the Frome Urban District Council's mains.

Upper and Lower Vobster and Hoare's Lane. Extensions from Norton Radstock U.D.C. Mains.

Kilmersdon Common. Extensions from the Shepton Mallet R.D.C. mains.

Village Pump Supplies : Faulkland, Laverton, Upton Noble, Rudge, and Tytherington.

Private Supplies

The following villages obtain their supply from private systems :

Berkeley, Elm, Farleigh Hungerford, Tellisford, Hemington, Lullington, Witham Friary, Wolverton.

The village of Kilmerson is supplied by private agreement from the mains of the Norton Radstock U.D.C.

The following refers to the principal water supplies :—

Coleford.—This supply remained abundant for all needs and apart from the usual maintenance works no special difficulty was experienced.

Buckland Dinham.—This supply was again abundant for all needs.

Leigh-on-Mendip.—The supply of water from the springs was ample to meet the requirements of the village during the greater part of the year, but during the summer months the yield of the springs was insufficient and turning off the water to the lower part of the village had to be resorted to.

At Tadhil the work for the installation of an Automatic Electric Pump, in substitution of the Hydrostat, was proceeded with, but is not yet completed. In the meantime carting of drinking water daily is being continued.

Mells.—The yield of these springs was ample to meet requirements during the greater part of the year, but during the summer months was insufficient to maintain a constant supply to a few of the houses at the higher levels.

Norton St. Philip, Rode, Beckington, and Standerwick Regional Supply.—These works, which have been in operation just over four years, have again provided a continuous supply to the area concerned.

A breakdown occurred with the No. 1 Pump in the early part of the year, when it was dismantled and repaired. Shortly following this a breakdown occurred to No. 2 Pump, but the condition of this was found to be so bad that repairs were not proceeded with.

Proposals for the provision of a different type of pump were considered by the Council, and ultimately upon the advice of an expert who was consulted upon the matter, it was agreed to accept the proposals of the makers to effect improvements and the reconditioning of both Pumps.

The total volume of water pumped to the mains was over $10\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons, equivalent to 28,000 gallons per day. This is an increase of $1\frac{3}{4}$ million gallons over the previous year.

An extension involving the laying of a 2-inch main for a distance of nearly a mile was carried out during the year to supply a building at Farleigh Hungerford which had been requisitioned by the Ministry of Works. The cost of this main was paid by them.

Nunney.—I have again to record a constant supply of water of the highest quality from the spring at Gaer Hill throughout the year, and apart from occasional breakdowns occurring through leakages on the line of the trunk main to the reservoirs, the supply to the village was well maintained.

Upon the advice of their consulting engineer, a proposal to erect a small water tower and automatic electric pump was carried out during the year in order to improve the supply on the high level at Ridgeway. Upon my advice the existing high level tank was retained, and the wisdom of this has been exemplified on several occasions when breakdowns with the pump and the trunk main occurred.

Wanstrow.—These springs maintained a supply to the village throughout the year, but the usual summer diminution in the yield was again experienced, and caution in the use of water had to be exercised.

Quarterly Analyses.—The sampling of the Council's supplies has been regularly carried out during the year, samples being submitted to the County Analyst.

Sewage Disposal

Coleford.—These sewage works have received regular attention and the final effluent from them has been satisfactory.

Nunney.—These works have received regular attention and no complaints have been received in regard to them.

Rode.—The new sewage disposal works have continued in operation, but the very large and varying quantity of the sewage adversely affects the satisfactory working of the plant.

The consulting engineer's attention was directed to this matter and investigations by him were carried out.

An independent investigation made by myself in conjunction with a member of the Council revealed the source of the large volume of water flowing into the sewers. These facts were ultimately handed to the Engineer, and upon his advice works were put in hand to remedy this matter, but after a start had been made the work was abandoned upon the advice of an Inspector of the Ministry of Health.

Refuse Collection

The monthly collection of indestructible house refuse is still being carried out over practically the whole area, and at Coleford a weekly collection of all house refuse is made.

Rats and Mice Destruction

Activities in regard to this matter have been maintained throughout the year, and a considerable quantity of poison biscuits have been distributed to farmers and others throughout the district. A number of interviews were made during the year with rat officers from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Food, as well as conferences attended.

Eradication of Bugs

No instance of bug infestation was reported or discovered during the year, and I am pleased to say that the district remains particularly free from this pest.

Milk Supply

Regular visits of inspection to farms and dairies were made during the year, and informal action taken where necessary was sufficient to deal with all matters arising.

Twenty-eight samples from Tuberculin Tested Producers and 112 samples from Accredited Producers were taken on behalf of the County Council and the samples submitted to the County Analyst. In addition, 5 samples were taken for examination for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli.

At the end of the year there were 86 Accredited and 14 Tuberculin Tested Producers on the Register.

Number of Producers on the Register, 386.

Number of Distributors on the Register :—

(a) Distributors only, 1.

(b) Distributors who are also Producers, 67.

Number of Licensed Milk Producers, 5 ; Accredited Bottling, 4 ; Supplementary Pasteurizing, 1.

Food Premises

All food premises have been visited during the year and supervision exercised in the methods of handling and preparation of foodstuffs. The following tinned foodstuffs were examined and condemned :—

12 tins of Pork Luncheon Meat.

4 tins of Sausage.

3 tins of Pilchards.

41 tins of Milk.

Food Decontamination.—Lectures and Meetings in connection with this have been attended during the year, and arrangements for dealing with this emergency made.

Housing

Under the Housing Acts it has not been possible under war conditions to maintain the progress of recent years, but nevertheless all matters arising from Housing defects and nuisances have been satisfactorily dealt with.

General

Owing to the large and varied responsibilities in connection with war emergency measures which have been thrown upon the Sanitary and Water department, a very considerable amount of time has had to be devoted to these matters.